AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~; lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948, and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

24. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

25. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

27. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948.

28. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~.

29. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

30. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 26 (~~of SEQ ID NO:57~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948.

33. (Previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 22 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

34. (Currently amended) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is ~~an epitope~~ a tag polypeptide or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

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DELETION OF INVENTORS

Please correct the inventorship under 37 CFR §1.48(b) by removing the following inventors from the present application:

Luc Desnoyers, Dan L. Eaton, Timothy L. Stewart and Zemin Zhang.